

Responsible Rx FAQs

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What is Responsible Rx?

Responsible Rx is an education program provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida to help members stay informed about prescription medications and how to use them properly. The program has three components: Responsible Quantity, Responsible Dose, and Responsible Steps.

Why has Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida implemented the Responsible Rx program?

We know our members have questions about safe and appropriate use of prescription medicines. We also know members have concerns about the costs of those medicines. So we developed the Responsible Rx program to provide knowledge, promote safety and responsibility, and keep out-of-pocket drug costs as low as possible.

What is Responsible Quantity?

The Responsible Quantity program helps prevent accidental overuse by limiting the number of doses covered per month for certain medications. The quantity limitations are based on the Food and Drug Administration guidelines and the manufacturer's dosing recommendations. These limits are expressed in terms of a 30-day supply of each drug and strength in the program. The program applies to standard and 90-day prescriptions from retail pharmacies and our mail order service.

If your doctor prescribes more than the Responsible Quantity for a particular drug in the program, you can still receive the original quantity. BCBSF will cover the Responsible Quantity for your usual copayment, and you may pay for the remainder if you choose.

As an example, if your doctor prescribes a medication that has a monthly Responsible Quantity of 9 tablets, you're covered for 9 tablets that month. If the prescription is for a 90-day (3-month) supply, you're covered for 27 tablets. If the doctor prescribes more than these amounts, you can elect to receive the additional quantities at your own expense.

What medications are included in the Responsible Quantity program?

A list of current medications under the program and their corresponding dispensing limits can be found on the [Responsible Quantity Medication List](#). (PDF). Faxed Exception Forms with all required information are processed within 10 calendar days from the date received from the provider. Faxed Exception Forms with missing information may require up to 15 working days to be completed, provided missing information can be readily obtained.

Can my physician make an exception request to the limits set by the Responsible Quantity program?

Yes, physicians may make an exception request as outlined in the criteria for Responsible Quantity program. The prescribing physician should complete the [Quantity Limit Authorization](#) (PDF) form and follow instructions provided on the form. Faxed Exception Forms with all required information are processed within 10 calendar days from the date received from the provider. Faxed Exception Forms with missing information may require up to 15 working days to be completed, provided missing information can be readily obtained.

What is Responsible Dose?

The Responsible Dose program provides dosing suggestions that could help you stay on your doctor-prescribed medications more conveniently. It's a member education program that applies only to certain medications. If you're taking two 10mg tablets every day, and you could achieve the same health benefits by taking one 20mg tablet, we'll alert you. The suggestions under this program always comply with FDA guidelines and the manufacturer's dosing recommendations.

How does the Responsible Dose program work?

Medications included in the program are approved by the FDA and the manufacturer for once-a-day dosing. If it appears you may be taking two tablets per day to get a total daily dose that's available in one tablet, we'll suggest you contact your doctor to discuss a possible dosing change. The program is educational and completely voluntary on your part.

What are the benefits of the Responsible Dose program?

Medications included in the program are approved by the FDA and the manufacturer for once-a-day dosing. If it appears you may be taking two tablets per day to get a total daily dose that's available in one tablet, we'll suggest you contact your doctor to discuss a possible dosing change. The program is educational and completely voluntary on your part.

What is Responsible Steps?

The Responsible Steps program promotes safe and effective use of medications, reduces accidental misuse and helps you save on prescriptions. For a small number of targeted medications, it requires that you try one or more alternatives before using the targeted drug. The alternatives in the Responsible Steps program are selected for sound clinical quality and safety data at a lower cost.

What are the main objectives of the Responsible Steps program?

- Promote safe and effective use of medications
- Reduce inappropriate use of medications
- Increase member savings

What medications are included in the Responsible Steps program?

A list of current medications under the program may be found on the [Responsible Steps Medication List](#). (PDF)

How is the Responsible Steps program administered?

Doctors, pharmacies and other providers in the BCBSF network understand the Responsible Steps program. Generally they will work with you to try alternative medications before prescribing the targeted medication. When your pharmacy submits a prescription claim electronically, it is checked automatically to see if a targeted drug is involved and if you've had an opportunity to try the alternative medications first.

What if I present a prescription for a targeted drug and have already used the alternatives? Will I be able to obtain my prescription for the targeted drug?

BCBSF will check your claim history automatically before authorizing the pharmacy to fill the prescription. If you've tried the alternatives and your doctor still wants you to use the targeted drug, the prescription will be filled. If you haven't tried the alternatives, the pharmacy will ask you to discuss it with your doctor. The doctor can either prescribe an alternative or request an exception from BCBSF.